I. PROJECT TITLE

Implementation of Emerging Technology in
One Louisiana Justice System

II. PROJECT LEADERS

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III. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a project intended to facilitate a partnership, unique to the state of Louisiana, between a state district court, that district's clerk of court, and the applicable appeals court aimed, at the implementation of state-of-the-art technology through the use of a single relational database solution to:

- ?? Consolidate and rebuild where necessary the existing ancient state district court's and clerk's infrastructures;

- ?? expand and open access to that infrastructure to the appeals court level for those cases which so advance;

- ?? provide adequate and more easily accessible information relative to court documents and proceedings to the citizens of the state; and

- ?? build the foundation upon which true web-based access for citizens to all appropriate court documents and the e-filing of all legal documents (a technology which the Bar is aggressively pursuing throughout the nation) becomes not only a possibility, but a reality in the foreseeable future.

The goals of the project are to replace in-use existing Legacy systems (e.g. d-base and Wang) utilizing DOS-based platforms in both the 19th Judicial District Court and the 19th Judicial District Clerk of Court's office with a state-of-the-art relational database solution, (e.g. SQL or Oracle) to the management/retention/access of court records quandary coupled with the purchase of a track-proven software product designed for such efforts, while at the same time upgrading/rebuilding the 19th JD Clerk's network to the point that the records of those cases which currently go up on appeal to the First Circuit

Court of Appeal in cardboard boxes could actually be transmitted electronically. It is contemplated by the project that the information stored in such a database would be at some time in the foreseeable future available for public access via the Internet.

Several steps to implement the project have been successfully completed prior to the submission of this request for partial additional funding. With its state appropriation, the First Circuit is in the final stages of implementing Phase I its Appellate Court Information System (ACIS); the 19th JDC has, through a local government supplemental appropriation completed the essential re-build of its antiquated network and entire infrastructure in order to be in a position to participate in this project; and the 19th JD Clerk's office has continued its multi-year task of documentation and compilation of the data necessary for the anticipated upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) process, as well as committing the funds necessary for the requisite software purchases. The request herein submitted is for assistance in the funding of the considerable cost of hardware associated with the implementation of the project.

The partnership among the First Circuit, the 19th JDC, and the 19th JD Clerk's office represents a unique departure from common local "turf" battles in an effort by all parties to build on past endeavors and move forward. This project could, in fact, result in a prototype/blueprint for where all Judicial branch players could possibly go in an effort to provide equal access to justice for all citizens utilizing technology to further these aims. It is particularly appropriate that this project originate in Baton Rouge where, as the capital city, the origin of somewhere in excess of 30 – 40% of the 19th JDC's cases, many of which are appealed to the First Circuit, is by virtue of its being the seat of state government.

We request $787,905.75 to purchase only the necessary <u>hardware</u> components of the project with an anticipated operational date of July 1, 2003.

IV   DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

A.   Project Narrative

The Implementation of Emerging Technology in One Louisiana Justice System is quite an ambitious, and as far as our research shows, unique undertaking. The responsibilities and duties of the Judicial branch of government in this state are spread among many constitutional, state, and local entities and components. Consequently, the coordination of services, access to information, and the basic "am I in the right place" kind of information is disjointed at best and totally intimidating at worst. Even the most astute citizen/consumer is hard pressed to know if he is supposed to be in the district court, appeals court, city court, family court, juvenile court or drug court on any given legal matter.

It becomes the Judicial branch's responsibility, in light of this complex hierarchy, to ensure that citizens can in fact navigate their way through the various components of the justice system. While there are all manner of technological tools available to assist in the navigation, they become virtually useless if the governmental components cannot even communicate with each other, much less their customers.

To this end, the project seeks to combine the technological and data resources of the 19th Judicial District Court and the 19th Judicial District Clerk of Court (both co-equal constitutional offices) into a single relational database. This database solution would provide:

- ?? A single point of entry for basic information--currently, with no common database storage between the Court and the Clerk at all, each work station/desk which deals with any one legal proceeding duplicates many steps (i.e. each person begins their task by re-typing "Smith vs. Jones" as though it were the first time seen). With the single relational database shared between the two entities (but controlled by the Clerk, as the legal repository for the judicial district's legal documents) it is estimated that duplication of the countless efforts could be eliminated. Significant savings in staff time and elimination of duplication of effort could be achieved through a single entry of initial legal proceeding information (plaintiff, defendant, counsel for each, witnesses, addresses for service, etc.) Each of these types of information are currently entered by as many as 5-6 different staff persons throughout the legal process.

- ?? A single database which could be queried for reporting purposes--there is currently no one statistical repository for court data. No one can report on how many cases are open in a given division/section of court on any given day or how many defendants pled guilty to felonies, etc. The data is simply not gathered nor is it centrally stored so that reports could be generated.

  This deficiency was recently made very clear to the 19th JDC when a new judgeship was created for the court by the legislature. In order to create a docket for the newly-elected Judge, staff had to manually go through each hard-copy file currently in every judge's office, determine if that case met the criteria for re-allotment, write down the case number, give a hand-written list of those numbers to the Clerk, get back the list of randomly chosen 1/7th of the files from the Clerk, pull those file numbers, and begin to fill the new Judge's file cabinet.

- ?? A single electronic repository for all court or clerk documents--should this single aim be achieved, cases which go from the 19th JDC to the First Circuit could be transmitted electronically. The First Circuit is already building the infrastructure to receive such information with its own

funding; however, legal documents that are required in an appeal record such as court minutes are not currently electronically available. They are typed in Word Perfect DOS, hard-copy printed, cut with scissors, and taped into big red leather Minute Books. The project could aim to solve this problem by storing them in the single relational database, available for electronic transmission to the appeals court.

The core function of the new software is to integrate information between agencies using the system. We anticipate these agencies to become very tightly integrated, resulting in a highly efficient enterprise solution. Versus our current system, an electronic case and document management system would give the ability to capture, store and retrieve case related data, enable users to capture and categorize data to maintain deadline information, produce statistical reports, generate notices and assist with other administrative activities, all electronically and securely. The system will provide the infrastructure for case management, e-filing, document management, and other features bundled into one package.

Currently, we only can retrieve the number of cases that enter the system. We cannot determine the length of stay in the judicial system and we have no means to gather critical statistics regarding the cases. There exists no mechanism to track the different types of criminal or civil cases. We cannot gather vital data such as how often a party is sued or the disposition of such case, how many cases were settled or the number of cases referred to trial. We have duplication of effort between our divisions as well as a lack of judicial efficiency. We strongly believe that an electronic case and document management system will facilitate our continued goal of office automation within the courts to meet the courts' responsibilities regarding equal access to justice in a timely and expeditious manner. Overall we anticipate a more effective, productive core of information to be used and provided within the day-to-day operations of the courts.

B. Use of Innovative Technology

The technology envisioned to be used in the front-end of this project is not innovative in and of itself; rather it is the use of already-proven technology by an imaginative partnership and the application of that technology in a paradigm new to the judiciary in Louisiana which sets this project apart. Traditionally our courts and the various clerks of court have each orchestrated and administered their own operations. While there have been a few limited attempts to coordinate technologies (e.g., the 24th JDC in Jefferson Parish has used shared electronic solutions on some extremely large and complex cases involving asbestos issues), very few courts do *anything* in the same manner.

The entire basis for our project is the standardization of procedures and work products, the elimination of duplicate efforts over and over again at every level of the legal process, and the hopes that, if successfully implemented, the project may be ported to other agencies within our branch of government. Without sounding

too presumptuous, one of the best possible end results of this project would be to promote the development and adoption of standards for the exchange of data, documents, and other electronic information between courts and other individuals and institutions.

Future phases of the project do envision the use of third-tier, Web-based innovative technology for the purpose of providing better, more efficient services to our customers, the public. These expanded uses of technologies include access to case information, court schedules, service unit locations, etc. through the Internet, kiosks, and other forms of public access to court information. The steps of the project we have outlined herein of consolidating the existing 19th JDC and 19th JD Clerk's existing infrastructure and expanding and opening access to that infrastructure to the First Circuit are but the beginnings of a technological explosion—one in which the judiciary is not yet sufficiently prepared to participate.

C. Multi-agency Application or Portability to Other Agencies

As stated elsewhere in this proposal, the entire basis of this project is to coordinate and integrate the operations of agencies within the legal justice system who currently operate separately and independently from each other as regards technology. We think this partnership among the 19th JDC, the 19th JD Clerk of Court, and the First Circuit Court of Appeal is a unique one formed solely to facilitate overcoming the traditional barriers to improving our services.

In addition, we know that the technology of e-filing of legal matters looms on the near horizon. When implementation of this technology begins in this state, we hope to have a model operation which could be applied to or adapted for the rest of the judicial branch. It is quite certain that the Louisiana Supreme Court is not going to be amendable to accepting electronic documents from 64 parishes in 64 different formats, software, applications, etc. Planning and implementation for this inevitability must start somewhere.

D. Benchmarking Partners and/or Best Practice References

Numerous court systems in other states have already executed a successful electronic court management system. Research has already been done through the National Center for State Courts, the National Association of Court Administrators, and other such experts to determine the best manner in which for our agencies to do the same. In addition the 19th JD Clerk's office has already spent much time and effort reviewing presentations and track records of the products already available. It will certainly not be difficult to find those products which have generated happy customers. By putting a great deal of time into documentation and preparation for the RFP process, we intend that from the responding vendors we will be able to identify the product which support the very best practices available for providing court services.

E. Long-range Planning

The agencies involved in the project have shown much foresight in contemplating the use of technology to improve court operations for the users of the system as well as the general population. The technology implementations that we envision using hold great promise for helping the court improve service to the citizens of our respective jurisdictions. A Technology Steering Committee has been established to guide technology decisions, with its main objective being to provide better access to the courts and court information. The committee consists of members from the 19th Judicial Court, the 19th Judicial District Clerk of Court, and the First Circuit Court of Appeal.

Our technology plan for a new solution included these activities:
- ?? Inventorying and documentation of the current information systems in order to achieve a more logical workflow process and to understand and improve our current processes before we apply technology
- ?? Research of regulations and laws that would impact the information system
- ?? Assessment of the cultural and practical limitations to sharing data between users
- ?? Needs assessment by all agencies
- ?? Re-engineering of the current processes to gain efficiencies and effectiveness
- ?? Creation of an implementation plan
- ?? Establishment of evaluation measures

The agencies involved in the project realize the need for a single relational database solution. Current case tracking and document management systems in use in the various agencies only marginally meet their needs. A modern single system will provide capabilities such as courtroom case processing support, calendaring, document generation, and management reporting. The various database case tracking systems used in the agencies require staff to expend time in reentering information and verifying information if a case moves between agencies. Using a single data entry point, the duplicate effort could be eliminated allowing staff to focus on other tasks and improve data accuracy.

F. Performance Goal

The District Court Judges Association adopted the Five-year Strategic Plan of the Trial Courts on December 31, 1999. Implementation of the plan is ongoing. The mission of the Trial Courts of Louisiana is:

- ?? to provide access to justice
- ?? to meet all responsibilities in a timely and expeditious manner

- ?? to provide equality, fairness and integrity in their proceedings
- ?? to maintain judicial independence and accountability
- ?? to reach a fair and just result by adherence to the procedural and substantive law, thereby instilling trust and confidence in the public.

In order to meet all responsibilities to everyone affected by the court and its activities in a timely and expeditious manner, objectives were set, mainly to encourage timely case management and processing. An automated case and document management information system would achieve this objective, along with promptly implementing changes in the law and procedure and enhancing jury service, both additional objectives set to improve case management and processing. Measurement of success could quickly be achieved as we could finally see improvement in the time required to resolve legal matters from start to finish.
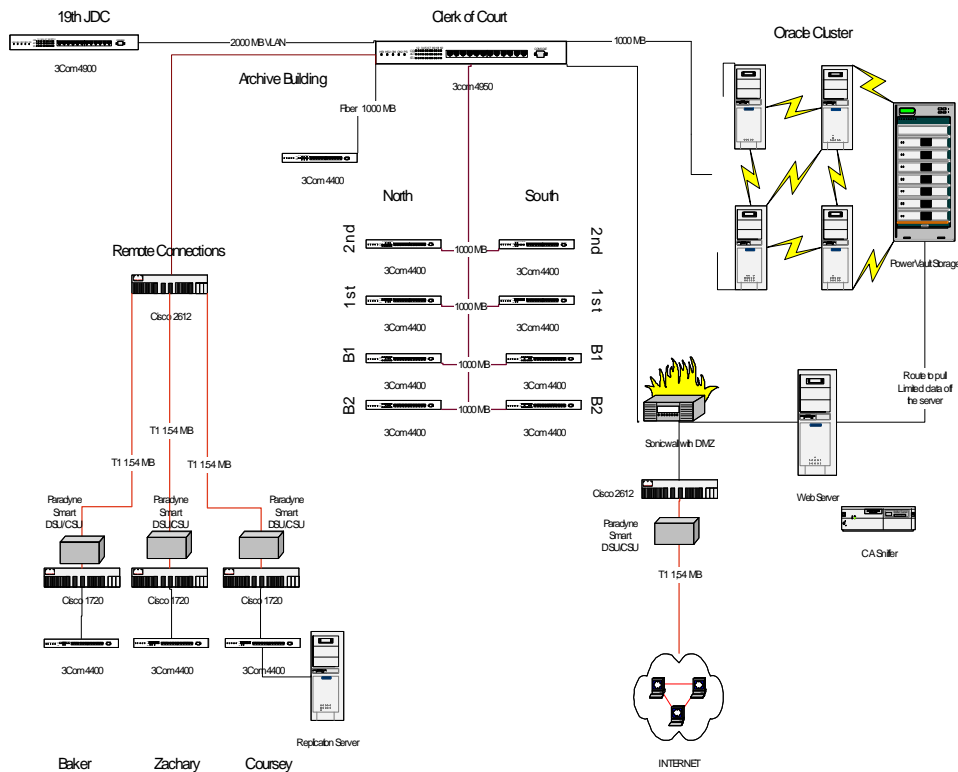
G. Technical Approach

Technical Description. The proposed solution selected for this project will be extremely robust and allow for future growth, expansion and scalability. The Oracle or similar solution will provide the agencies involved with data replication, security and fail over protection. A four-node cluster will be implemented with a fiber communication solution for speed and integrity. We will have firewalls, routers and Vlans configured between all parties involved for security and protection mandating data assurance. The external sites will be configured as separate LANS dynamically routed through a frame relay PVC. This configuration will ensure speed and real time replica updates, which will reduce CIR degradation.

Interoperability. With the proposed open Oracle, SQL, or comparable solution and hardware configurations this system will allow any additional interfaces from any point of the LAN or WAN.

Scalability. The main focus of this project is to allow data growth and intergovernmental expansion. The proposed Oracle, SQL, or similar solution will give us the flexibility to offer any of our judicial information to other courts or law enforcement operations inside or out of the project's jurisdictions.

Maintaining the System. After careful evaluation and cooperation of the agencies involved we decided on the best solution for the administration and overall infrastructure robustness. The proposed solution will allow us to decrease down time and reduce database manipulation to almost zero. This in turn will allow for very little administrative intervention.

19th JDC   Clerk of Court   Oracle Cluster

2000 MB VLAN   1000 MB

3Com 4900   Archive Building   3com 4950

Fiber 1000 MB

3Com 4400   North   South   Power\Vault Storage

2nd   2nd
1000 MB
3Com 4400   3Com 4400

Remote Connections   1st   1st
1000 MB
3Com 4400   3Com 4400

Cisco 2612   B1   B1
1000 MB
3Com 4400   3Com 4400   Route to pull
Limited data of
B2   B2   the server
1000 MB
3Com 4400   3Com 4400

T1 154 MB   Sonicwall with DMZ   Web Server

T1 154 MB   T1 154 MB   Cisco 2612

Paradyne   Paradyne   Paradyne   Paradyne   CA Sniffer
Smart   Smart   Smart   Smart
DSU/CSU   DSU/CSU   DSU/CSU   DSU/CSU

T1 154 MB
Cisco 1720   Cisco 1720   Cisco 1720

3Com 4400   3Com 4400   3Com 4400

Replication Server

Baker   Zachary   Coursey   INTERNET

H. Implementation Approach

July 1, 2002
RFP will be issued to public

August 1, 2002
RFP Process will end at deadline

September 1, 2002
Vendor will be interviewed 1 – 20

September 25, 2002
Vendor selected end of month

October 1, 2002
Redesign clerk's current infrastructure

November 1, 2002
Test clerk's main office's new design

December 1, 2002
Begin work on remote suites along with 19th JDC

January 1, 2003

Test all remote locations new designs

February 1, 2003
Begin configuration new database and all relational tables and reports

March 1, 2003
Database Connection Test

April 1, 2003 through May 25, 2003
Data conversion from Wang to chosen solution

June 2003
Test

July 1, 2003
Live

I. Assessment of Risks

Both courts involved in the project and the 19th JD Clerk's office all have standalone case tracking systems. All of the systems essentially do the same but do not share any information. Most of the systems are many years old and still use unsupported or soon to be unsupported software products. Any improvement in these operations, much less the quantum leap envisioned by the project, would be real progress. The technology, including case and document management software, is available in many forms, available from numerous vendors, and has been in use in countless courts in other states for many years. Consequently, the risk of investing monies in a system that will not do the job is extremely low. Our assessment of risk associated with a new solution will be:

- ?? Users of the solution will be inadequately trained
- ?? The current technological staff will not keep current on new developments in office automation to keep the agencies technologically current
- ?? Limitations of the current workstations

Although some risks exist, we have established a Technology Committee to direct its implementation and we foresee only future benefits to the courts, the Clerk's office, and the citizens of the judicial districts served.

J. Integration with Existing Technologies

For years, the 19th JDC and the 19th JD Clerk have been operating as two separate business units—one keeps records, the other decides cases. The new goal is to appear to the public as one organization—an organization with one goal in mind: provide justice related services to the public in the most efficient manner possible

using a *single point of contact*. Our most valuable asset is our electronic data store of 15 years worth of case tracking and scheduling data. Presently, there are about 5 separate databases of information, none of which are integrated in a manner where a member of the public can find out the status of their case from one point of contact. This goal can only be accomplished by integrating our disparate collection of 25 separate information storage formats into a single database. We want to fix the most common problem we face when serving the public—knowing the present status of a court case. To determine the status of a case, the public is required to walk to numerous offices—all located on different floors or sometimes different buildings. The proposed system will make this single point of contact possible.

The proposed project for the 19th JDC and the 19th JD Clerk's Office is to be built from scratch. To the extent possible, the project will attempt to move data from the existing WANG and d-based systems to the new case and document management system, although it is yet to be determined how successful this migration can be. It is intended, however, for the proposed system to be implemented in those agencies to be similar in structure to the system being used in the First Circuit so that electronic transfer of data can be readily accomplished, thus integrating with the state-of-art technology

K. Project Budget Costs

1. Equipment

Personal Computer. A total of two hundred fifty (250) personal computers will be installed at the Clerk of Court's. The computers will be used by Clerk of Court personnel and by the public. Each will be a Dell GX240 at 1.7GHZ with 128 MB of RAM and a 20 Gigabyte Hard drive with on-board network connections and 17" screen and will cost $984.00 each. Two laptops will need to be purchased to perform administrative tasks on the network, at a cost of $2191.00 each.

Total cost for Personal Computers: $250,382.00

Network Server. A four-node cluster will be located in the Clerk of Court's server room. The cluster will hold all records concerning Criminal, Civil and Traffic records for the 19th Judicial District Court. The servers will be Dell PowerEdge 6450 servers, configured with quad 900 Mhz Xeon processors, 4 Gigabytes of ram, two 36 Gigabyte hard drives running Windows 2000 Advanced Server. Four servers will need to be purchased at a cost of $28,521.00 each. Additional hardware will need to be purchased to support the clustering solutions with a Management Station and a switch for the cluster's heartbeats, for a cost of $6290.00. One Dell 2550 server, configured with one Gigabyte Hard drive and one Gigabyte ram to be located in the Clerk of Court's server room as a Mail Server at a cost of $4,774. Three Dell 2550 servers, configured with 1.4 Gigabytes Hard drive and one Gigabyte ram will

be located at remote locations to be used as a Web Server and two Replication Servers at a cost of $8,471.00 each. Storage for the database itself will be in a Dell/EMC Power Vault, for a cost of $206,332.00. Server Racks and redundant power supplies for the servers will cost $11,147.85. The backup solution will be a DLT library with a Dell 130T, for a cost of $58,974.00. Fifteen HP DLT tapes will be needed at a cost of $70.41each.

Total cost for Server Solutions: $425,897.15

Network Switches. The root switch will be a 3COM 4950 Aggregator, which supports both fiber and copper connections; it will cost, with redundant power supplies, $8,876.40. Two 3COM SS3 4900 switches will be needed at a cost of $1,800.00 each, along with two 3COM SS3 RPS Modules at a cost of 479.40 each. An additional sixteen 3COM 4400 switches will be required to connect each new computer node to the rebuilt network at a cost of $2,300.00 each. Additional 3COM switches will be needed to connect each remote location, along with redundant power supplies at a cost of $14,891.40.

Total cost for Network Solutions: $65,126.60

Network Routing. A Cisco 2612 router will be based in the Clerk of Court's server room. This router will connect external connections from 3 remote office locations at a cost of $3000.00. One Cisco 1720 will be at each of the remote offices to connect back to the Cisco 2612 at the main downtown office at a cost of $2500.00 each. A second Cisco 2612 will be required to connect the Clerk of Court's internal network to the Internet for Web Access and Email at a cost of $3000.00. Smart CSU/DSU will be required for monitoring of each of the connections to the remote offices at a cost of $2500.00 each.

Total cost for Router Solutions: $21,000.00

Network Security. A Sonicwall Pro will serve as the firewall solution at a cost of $4,500.00. A virus-scanning agent will be present on the firewall at a cost of $3,000.00. CA Sniffer software will be present on specifically designed hardware at a cost of $18,000.00.

Total cost for Network Security: $25,500.00

Cost Summary:			

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Personal Computers:			
Dell GX240 1.7GHZ 128 MB RAM 20 GB HD	250	$984.00	$246,000.00
Dell C610 1.2 Ghz 256 MB 20 GB	2	$2,191.00	$4,382.00
Network Servers:			
Case 42 Unit 16 port KVM 1U flat screen UPS	1	$6,321.00	$6,321.00
Case 42 Unit 8 port KVM 1U flat screen	1	$3,579.00	$3,579.00
PE 1550 1GHz 1 GB ram	1	$4,770.00	$4,770.00
Dell 6450s 4x900xeon 4GB ram	4	$28,521.00	$114,084.00
Base 2 gigabit fiber	4	$1,631.00	$6,524.00
Base 2 gigabit fiber	4	$2,173.00	$8,692.00
Power Connect 5012, Managed Switch	1	$1,380.00	$1,380.00
8 port fiber switch	2	$14,484.00	$28,968.00
Dell EMC case and 10/pack 73 GB 10K drives	2	$17,601.00	$35,202.00
FC4700 Disk Array	1	$126,160.00	$126,160.00
Dell 2550 Dual 1 Gig 1 Gb RAM RAID5 9GB 10K	1	$4,774.00	$4,774.00
Dell 2550 Dual 1.4 Gig 1 Gb RAM RAID5 18 GB 15K	3	$8,471.00	$25,413.00
HP DLT Tapes	15	$70.41	$1,056.15
PowerVaulter 130T	1	$58,974.00	$58,974.00
Switches:			
3Com 4950 SS3 Aggregator	1	$8,397.00	$8,397.00
3Com SS3 Advanced RPS	1	$479.40	$479.40
3Com SS3 RPS Module Type 3	2	$479.40	$958.80
3Com SS3 RPS Module Type 3 Y Cable	1	$89.40	$89.40
Gigabit Ethernet Copper Server Nics	4	$206.50	$826.00
3Com SS3 4900 12 port SX	2	$1,800.00	$3,600.00
3Com SS3 4400 48 port w/ 1000 MB Copper	8	$2,300.00	$18,400.00
3Com SS3 4400 48 port w/ 1000 MB Fiber	8	$2,800.00	$22,400.00
24 port 10/100 Switches	4	$419.00	$1,676.00
3Com SS3 4900 12 port Copper	1	$1,800.00	$1,800.00
3com SS3 4400 24 port with gig copper	5	$1,300.00	$6,500.00
Routers:			

Cisco 2612 With wic	2	$3,000.00	$6,000.00
Cisco 1720	3	$2,500.00	$7,500.00
Paradyne	3	$2,500.00	$7,500.00

Security:

SonicWall Pro w/ DMZ	1	$4,500.00	$4,500.00
Sonic Wall Virus	1	$3,000.00	$3,000.00
CA Sniffer	1	$18,000.00	$18,000.00

TOTAL FOR EQUIPMENT: **$787,905.75**

2. **Software**

Oracle Database Real Application Cluster (RAC) Software. Oracle Database RAC Software will be used to manage the Oracle Database that will be located on the four-node cluster. Oracle RAC software will run on Red Hat 7.0 Linux Operating System. This will allow for almost unlimited availability and scalability for the court's applications. Cost: $71,249.00

Oracle 9i Database Enterprise Edition. Data management software for four cpu's per node. Includes 1 year of updates and technical support. Cost: $67,450.00 ea.

Microsoft Office XP Professional Software. Two hundred and fifty (250) Microsoft Office XP Professional Software packages for the Clerk of Court's personal computers located in the four locations in East Baton Rouge Parish. This software package will include Microsoft Word XP word processing tool and Outlook e-mail tool. Cost: $389.00 ea.

Microsoft Exchange Server 2000 Software. Software package that will offer integrated management of the Court's networking and messaging infrastructure. Cost: $604.00

Microsoft Exchange 2000 Client Access License (CAL). Two hundred and fifty (250) Microsoft Exchange 2000 Client Access Licenses are required for the Clerk of Court's personal computers. A Microsoft Exchange 2000 CAL is required for each end-user, and entitles access rights to the Microsoft Exchange Server 2000 for networking and messaging purposes. Cost: $58.15 ea.

Cost Summary:

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Oracle Database RAC Software	1	$71,249.00	$71,249.00
Oracle 9i Database Enterprise Edition	4	$67,450.00	$269,800.00
Microsoft Office XP Professional	250	$389.00	$97,250.00
Microsoft Exchange Server 2000	1	$604.00	$604.00
Microsoft Exchange 2000 CAL	250	$58.15	$14,537.50
TOTAL FOR SOFTWARE:			**$453,440.50**

3. Telecommunications

Leased T-1 Circuit. Each of three remote offices will require a leased T-1 circuit to connect to the offices to the main Oracle database in downtown Baton Rouge. Bellsouth will be used. The monthly cost is $1200.00 per circuit. Request is to fund the circuits for 12 months. So requested cost is $14,400.00 per circuit. These costs are to be borne by the participating agencies and no funding is being requested for Leased T-1 circuits.

V. FUNDING REQUESTED

Other sources:

Funding Category	Total Cost	19th JDC Court	EBR Clerk	First Circuit	Funding requested
Equipment	$787,906				$787,906
Software	$800,000	$150,000	$650,000	0	0
Telecommunications					
Professional Services	$60,000			$60,000	0

TOTAL	$1,647,906	$150,000	$60,000	**$787,906**

The First Circuit Court of Appeal anticipates $60,000 general fund for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 to be included in the Judicial Appropriation Bill for Phase II of their case management system which is to include development of modules for the development of the electronic transfer of data between the two courts. The 19th Judicial District Court has already expended $150,000 of its own funds for network upgrade/rebuild and has committed an additional $150,000 of its own monies for software purchases related to the project. The 19th JD Clerk of Court has committed over $650,000 for the same software purchase from his own funds.

IV.   COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS

The "cost/benefit" of this project is almost impossible to quantify; attempting to do so would be a useless exercise producing little meaningful information. Rather, the "cost/benefit" can be easily described as follows:

This proposal seeks $787,906 as a state investment in the automation of the judicial process in the 19th JDC and the 19th JD Clerk's office—the jurisdiction responsible for state government legal matters. Because no judicial system can function efficiently or effectively without automation, this "cost" is heavily outweighed by the "benefits" that will be reaped once a database for case management is established in the 19th JDC and 19th JD Clerk's office, and antiquated manual process are eliminated. Data will be available to transfer electronically with high level courts, thus eliminating wasteful and duplicative data entry efforts and immeasurably increasing accuracy of information exchange.